

Consent Form for “Indoor Air Radon Survey in Sierra Areas of California”

(Please sign and return this copy)

1. Purpose, Participation, and Procedures

You are asked to participate in a study of assessing household radon levels by staff from the California Department of Health Services. If you agree to participate, you will be mailed one or more radon monitors with instructions for installation and a 4-page questionnaire. You will be asked to place the radon monitor(s) in the main activity room (such as the living room) and the basement (if you have one) of your home for a year. After a year, you will mail the monitor(s) back to us in a postage-paid mailer. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible.

2. Description of Risks

Your participation in this study is free of any foreseeable risks to you. However, if you choose to be informed of the radon levels in your residence, you are responsible for any public disclosures (e.g., seller's reporting responsibility to prospective buyers or landlord's reporting responsibility to tenants).

3. Description of Benefits

If you participate and request to be informed of the study results, you will be able to know if the radon levels in your residence are above the safe level (action level given by EPA is 4 pCi/l). Information obtained in this study will provide us with a more detailed description of the high radon risk areas in California and we will have more complete radon baseline information statewide. This information is necessary to the development, implementation, and evaluation of the State Multi-Media-Mitigation (MMM) programs. The MMM programs are very important to reduce risks associated with radon in California.

4. Alternative Procedures

If you decide not to participate in this study, you can obtain radon testing service at your own expense.

5. Supplemental Procedures

A small number of participants will be asked to participate in a sub-study to assess multi-media (air, water and soil) radon exposure. With your permission, staff from the California Department of Health Services will visit your home, at a prearranged time convenient to you, to take soil and water samples. There is no additional risk for this supplemental procedure.

6. Confidentiality of Records

Any personal information will be kept entirely confidential. Any reports or presentations of information obtained in this study will be summarized results from all participants, and will not contain any identifiable information. You will be given the option of being informed about the results at the end of the study.

7. Compensation

There will be no compensation for your participation.

8. Injury

This study is free of any foreseeable risks to you.

9. Questions

If you have questions about the study, your participation in it, or your rights as a participant (see the Research Participant's Bill of Rights attached to this consent form), feel free to call Dr. Kai-Shen Liu, Epidemiologist, Indoor Air Quality Section, California Department of Health Services, at 510-540-3161.

10. Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and there is no penalty for failure to participate, or for withdrawal from the study before it is completed. If you choose, you may participate in the main study and decline to participate in the sub-study. You are not required to participate in both studies.

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11. Consent

Your signature on this consent form gives us the permission to include you as one of the participants in this study. Thank you.

**I, _____ / _____, (signature of participant/ date),
have read the above description, and do hereby agree to participate in the above-
mentioned indoor pollution study.**

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH PARTICIPANT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Any person who is asked to participate as a human subject in a research study, or who is asked to consent on behalf of another, has the following rights:

- a) Be informed of the nature and purpose of the study.
- b) Be given an explanation of the procedures to be followed in the study and any drug or device to be utilized.
- c) Be given a description of any attendant discomforts and risks reasonable to be expected from the study, if applicable.
- d) Be given an explanation of the benefits to the subject reasonably to be expected from the study, if applicable.
- e) Be given a disclosure of any appropriate alternative procedures, drugs, or devices that might be advantageous to the subject, and their relative risks and benefits.
- f) Be informed of the avenues of medical treatment, if any, available to the subject after the study if complications should arise.
- g) Be given an opportunity to ask any questions concerning the study or the procedures involved.
- h) Be instructed that consent to participate in the study may be withdrawn at any time and the subject may discontinue participation in the study without prejudice.
- i) Be given a copy of the signed and dated written consent form.
- j) Be given the opportunity to decide to consent or not to consent to a study without the intervention of any force, fraud, deceit, duress, coercion, or undue influence on the subject's decision.

(California Health and Safety Code §24172)